

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAHORE 00252 040902Z

51

ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: DETAINED NAP LEADERS

REF: A. LAHORE 1483

B. LAHORE 209

1. ON FEBRUARY 25, BENCH CONSISTING OF TWO JUSTICES OF LAHORE HIGH COURT DISMISSED HABEAS CORPUS PETITION CHALLENGING DETENTION OF KHAN ABDUL WALI KHAN, PRESIDENT OF FORMER NAP. ACTION FOLLOWED DENIAL BY SAME BENCH OF TWO OTHER PETITIONS SUBMITTED BY WALI KHAN'S LAWYER, MALIK GHULAM JILANI, IN WHICH HE SOUGHT INTERVIEW WITH WALI AND COURT ORDER SEALING GOVERNMENT RECORDS REGARDING NAP LEADER'S DETENTION. EARLIER, GOP DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL INFORMED COURT THAT WALI HAD BEEN PROPERLY SERVED WITH COPY OF CHARGES AGAINST HIM, AND NOTED THAT GOP HAD REFERRED TO SUPREME COURT ON FEBRUARY 24 ITS ACTION BANNING NAP.

2. ON FEBRUARY 27, HEARING IN THE CASES OF FOUR PREVIOUSLY DETAINED NAP LEADERS FROM BALUCHISTAN WAS ADJOURNED INDEFINITELY BY ANOTHER BENCH OF LAHORE HIGH COURT, AT REQUEST
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PAGE 02 LAHORE 00252 040902Z

OF THEIR LAWYER MAHMUD ALI KASURI. (FOUR BALUCH LEADERS ARE

BIZENJO, MARRI, MENGAL AND COLONEL CHAUDHRY, COURT WAS HEARING PETITIONS CHALLENGING THEIR DETENTION AND INVOKING HABEAS CORPUS PROVISIONS.)

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS, PUNJAB

GOVERNMENT ON FEBRUARY 25 EXTENDED BY ANOTHER THREE MONTHS DETENTION PERIOD OF SYED MOHAMMAD KASWAR GARDESI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NAP. PRESS NOTED HE HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN ARRESTED FOR 15 DAYS UNDER DEFENSE OF PAKISTAN RULES (DPR). (OUR SOURCES BELIEVE WALI KHAN WAS ALSO ARRESTED UNDER SIMILAR PROVISION OF LAW, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO NEWS INDICATING GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN STEPS TO LEGALLY EXTEND PER TK OF HIS DETENTION.)

4. COMMENT: TWO LEADING LAHORE LAWYERS WHO OFTEN HANDLE COURT CASES FOR NAP AND OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES, AND LAHORE HIGH COURT JUSTICE ASLAM RIAZ HUSSAIN(WHO IS NOT SITTING IN JUDGMENT OF ANY NAP CASE) EXPRESSED BEWILDERMENT TO US AS TO WHY WALI KHAN'S LAWYER WITHDREW PETIT BN. JUSTICE MOSSAIN SPECULATED THAT LAWYER BECAME DISCOURAGED WHEN COURT DENIED OTHER TWO PETITIONS AND ASSUMED HE WOULD NOT GET FAVORABLE JUDGMENT ON HABEAS CORPUS PETITION. ALL THREE OPINED THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD INSURE THAT WALI REMAINS IN DETENTION AND OUT OF CONTACT WITH HIS LAWYERS UNTIL SUPREME COURT REACHES DECISION ON GOP BAN OF NAP. TWO LAWYERS BELIEVED GOVERNMENT WOULD SEE TO IT, BY WHATEVER MEANS, THAT WALI AND OTHER NAP LEADERS REMAIN IN DETENTION INDEFINITELY AND THAT PARTY WOULD STAY BANNED FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
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